

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A ball throwing machine comprising a support body (4) mountable on the ground (3), a pair of rotary shafts (6, 6) supported by said support body (4) so that they are rotatable around their own parallel axes (5), a pair of rotary wheels (7, 7) fixed on said rotary shafts (6) concentrically with the latter, an electric motor (8) supported by said support body (4) to enable said two rotary wheels (7, 7) to be driven for rotation, and an operatively connecting means (9) for operatively connecting said two rotary wheels (7, 7) to said electric motor (8), the arrangement being such that said two rotary wheels (7, 7) are rotated in opposite directions (C, D) in operative association with the driving of the electric motor (8) and through said operatively connecting means (9) and said rotary shafts (6), and a ball (2) fed between the outer peripheral surfaces (10, 10) of said two rotary wheels (7, 7) is nipped between the outer peripheral surfaces (10, 10) and accelerated and thrown outward, said ball throwing machine being characterized in that

said support body (4) comprises a support body main body (15) mountable on the ground (3), and a support pipe (16) supported by said support body main body (15) to linearly extend so as to support the rotary shafts (6) in a state in which the rotary shafts (6) extend through the support pipe (16) in a direction orthogonal to the longitudinal direction of the support pipe (16).

2. (Original) A ball throwing machine as set forth in Claim 1, characterized in that said electric motor (8) is supported by said support pipe (16).

3. (Original) A ball throwing machine as set forth in Claim 1, characterized in that said operatively connecting means (9) is disposed outside said support pipe (16).

4. (Original) A ball throwing machine as set forth in Claim 1, characterized in that any sections of said support pipe (16) taken longitudinally thereof are rectangles of the same shape and size.

5. (Currently Amended) A ball throwing machine as set forth in ~~any one of Claims 1 through 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that said support body main body comprises a support frame (17) mountable on the ground (3), pillars (18, 19) projecting upward from said support frame (17), and a pivot shaft (44) for pivotally supporting said support pipe (16) on the pillars (18, 19) to allow said support pipe to turn around the axis (43), wherein the support pipe (16) is three-dimensionally orthogonal to the axis (43) of said pivot shaft (44).